Chapter 1 QURANIC PASSAGES

Passage no. 3 Surah 41.37 (Surah Fussilat)

Translation:

37. Among His sings are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Adore not the sun and the moon, but adore Allah, who created them, if it is Him you wish to serve. 38. But if people are arrogant, in the presence of your Lord are those who celebrate His praises by night and by day. And they never grow tired. 39. And among His signs is this: you see the earth barren and desolate, but when We send down rain to it, it is stirred to life and yields increase. Truly, He who gives life to the earth can surely give life to those who are dead, for He has power over all things. (41:37–39)

Main Theme:

This verse is from sura fussilat\Ha-Mim, an early makkan surah, it describes the theme of God in Himself. It mentions some of the signs and phenomena of nature that reflect God's unity and majesty. It refers to the cycles of day and night as evidence of divinity.

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- The Quran supports it elsewhere as:
  "behold! In the creation of the heavens and earth; in the alternation of the night and the day….are signs for the people who are wise'' (2:164).
  The passage commands humans to worship the Creator of the sun and moon and not the creations themselves because the Creator is always superior to the creations and He is the Lord, the Master and the Owner of all that exists.
- It describes God as the Originator and the Creator of universe as the Omnipotent Lord who can create everything without any source. Allah says in the Quran:
  He is the One who has originated the heavens and the earth, and when He wills to (originate) a thing, He only says to it: 'Be,' and it becomes". (2:117).
- Allah is The Omnipotent and all powerful. He has ultimate power over His creation. He created everything with complete order and harmony, every planet runs in its own orbit.
  "It is not permitted to the Sun to catch up the moon nor can the Night outstrip the Day: each (just) swims along in (its own) orbit (according to the law). [36:40]
- God is invisible and beyond human imagination but His signs are everywhere around us. Immaculate system of this universe, creation of day and night in perfect rotation and movement of the heavenly bodies in their orbits without a minute difference is proof of His authority and control over the Universe. His flawless creation and perfect equilibrium in the system is proof of Allah's existence and fruit for thought and reasoning for humans. Quran says:
  "Those who remember Allah standing, and sitting and on their sides and they reflect on (the) creation (of) the heavens and the earth, "Our Lord, not You have created this (in) vain. Glory be to You, so save us (from the) punishment (of) the Fire. (3:191)

B: Importance of the theme:

- Theme of this passage urges Muslims to observe various objects of nature that reflect God's presence, majesty and glory. A Muslim must reflect in the creations of Allah around him and realize existence of the Supreme Creator whose every creation is flawless.
- Theme of this passage inspires Muslims to develop an attitude of scientific research and reflection in the system of Universe which ultimately strengthens the belief of a Muslim in Allah.
- Since humans cannot afford to see God physically, they are asked to identify the real creator through his creations that bear witness to his existence. Such observation encourages Muslims to develop a strong belief in Tawhid in all its aspects. The Quran, for this reason, frequently refers to the need of pondering and observing:

  "verily, in the alternation of the night and the day, and in all that God has created in the heavens and the earth, are signs for those who fear Him" (30:40, Al-Rum).

  So, Muslims should express their gratitude to God for enabling them to see and think deeply.
- This theme instigates Muslims to avoid Shirk that the earlier communities fell victim to, and worship one Supreme God. It enables a Muslim to realize that he is the trustee of power and knowledge on Earth. His power and knowledge is a blessing of Allah which must be used productively for the well-being of humanity. Thus, it inspires believers to protect environment on the Earth considering it a great blessing of Allah.
- A believer realizes that only Allah is the Absolute, the Self-subsisting and Independent. He realizes his weaknesses and that never get proud of his worldly power and knowledge and always seeks Allah's forgiveness. As Allah commands in the Quran: "But seek the forgiveness of Allah; for Allah is oft-forgiving the Most Merciful. (4:106)
- Worshipping Sun and Moon can be metaphorically related to Celebrity obsession which is common in today's time. Muslims are guided not to adore celebrities and get obsessed with them like it was done in case of celestial bodies during ancient times. Celestial bodies were out of reach to the humans so many of the common people would consider them as Gods. Nowadays many of the common people consider celebrities superior and feel themselves inferior. Muslims are encouraged to value themselves and all humans are considered equal in Islam. Islam urges Muslims to respect others as well as to value their own selves and it supports a believer to get out of any type of inferiority complex.

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